

CLAIMS

1. An auction system for carrying out an auction in a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, comprising:

5 a submitting node for transmitting information describing a product and information including sale conditions to a sponsor node for any product and submitting the product in the auction;

10 a sponsor node for disclosing said submitted product as a product for auction by a format enabling viewing from individual nodes, receiving a bid from any node, determining a successful bid from bids having purchase conditions matching with the sale conditions of the product, changing part or all of the content of said disclosure and said sale conditions for a product failing  
15 in establishment of a transaction, and including this as a product for auction again; and

a bidding node for viewing the product for auction disclosed from said sponsor node via a network  
20 and placing a bid with respect to the product desired to be purchased.

2. An auction system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said submitting node transmits to the sponsor  
25 node information on whether it wishes to submit the

product for re-auction if the transaction fails to be established, and

said sponsor node includes a product as a product for re-auction only when a product for which a transaction has failed to be established has an instruction for submission for re-auction.

3. An auction system as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said submitting node transmits to the sponsor node information on whether it wishes to submit the product for re-auction if the transaction fails to be established along with information describing the product and information on the sales conditions at the same time as applying for submission of the product, and

said sponsor node changes part or all of the content of the disclosure relating to the product and the sales conditions and includes a product as for re-auction only for a product for which a transaction has failed to be established and having an instruction for submission for re-auction.

4. An auction system as set forth in claim 3, wherein

said sales conditions include a minimum reserve,

said purchase conditions include a bid, and

said sponsor node determines the successful bid from the bids of at least said minimum reserve, makes changes such as processing for reducing the minimum reserve of the product for a product for which a transaction has failed to be established and being submitted for re-auction, and including that product as a product for re-auction.

5. An auction system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said sponsor node discloses each product for auction in a format enabling viewing by categories of products, makes changes including changing the category of the product for a product for which a transaction has failed to be established and being submitted for re-auction, and includes that product as a product for re-auction.

6. An auction system as set forth in claim 3, wherein

said sale conditions include information designating an auction period, and

said sponsor node discloses said product and receives bids in said designated period, makes changes including changing the auction period for a product for which a transaction has failed to be established and being submitted for re-auction, and includes that product as a product for re-auction.

7. An auction processing method for hosting an auction in a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, comprising the steps of;

a submitting node transmits information  
5 describing a product, information of sale conditions, and information indicating whether or not the product is to be submitted for auction again if a transaction fails to be established to an auction sponsor node for the product to be submitted,

10 the sponsor node receives said information from said submitting node,

the sponsor node discloses the submitted product as a product for auction by a format enabling viewing from nodes,

15 a bidding node views products for auction disclosed from said sponsor node via the network, the bidding node places a bid for the product desired to be purchased,

20 the sponsor node receives bids from any bidding nodes,

the sponsor node determines the bid indicating purchase conditions matching with said sale conditions of the product as the successful bid, and

25 the sponsor node changes part or all of the content of said disclosure relating to the product and

said sale conditions for a product failing in  
establishment of a transaction and for which an  
instruction for submitting the same for auction again was  
given and includes the same as a product for auction  
5 again.

8. An auction processing method as set forth in  
claim 7, wherein

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including changing the auction period when the product is being submitted for re-auction.

11. An auction processing apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected,  
5 receiving a bid transmitted from any node via said network, and hosting the auction of a desired product, comprising

an auction receiving means for receiving an application for auction for any product including  
10 information describing the product and information of sale conditions of the product and including the product as a product for auction,

a product disclosing means for disclosing any information for the product for auction including  
15 information describing the product by a format enabling viewing from any node,

a bid receiving means for receiving an application for purchase for said product for auction transmitted from any node including information of the  
20 purchase conditions,

a successful bid determining means for determining a purchaser of the product from applications for purchase received within a predetermined period for said product for auction and having purchase conditions  
25 of the application matching with said sale conditions of

the product, and

a re-auction means for changing part or all of said sale conditions and said information describing the product to be disclosed according to a predetermined process for a product for which a purchaser could not be determined and including the product as a product for auction again.

12. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein

10 said sales conditions include a minimum reserve,

said purchase conditions include a bid,

said successful bid determining means determines said purchase from applications for purchase of purchase conditions where the bid is at least the minimum reserve, and

said auction means makes changes including changing the minimum reserve of the product for a product for which a purchase could not be determined and includes that product as a product for re-auction.

13. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said re-auction means determines a new minimum reserve based on the bids of applications for purchase of the product and the original minimum reserve for a

product for which the purchaser could not be determined and includes the product as a product for re-auction.

14. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said re-auction means determines a new  
5 minimum reserve based on the highest bid among the bids which failed to reach the minimum reserve and the original minimum reserve for a product for which the purchaser could not be determined and includes the product as a product for re-auction.

10 15. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein said re-auction means determines the new minimum reserve for a product for which the purchaser could not be determined by referring to the successful bids for other products for auction similar in category  
15 to the product and includes the product as a product for re-auction.

16. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said sale conditions include a lower limit of a  
20 minimum reserve and

said re-auction means makes changes to lower the minimum reserve of a product within a range above the lower limit for a product for which the purchaser could not be determined.

25 17. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in



claim 11, wherein

said product disclosing means discloses each product for auction by a format enabling viewing by categories of products and

5           said re-auction means makes changes including changing the category of the product for a product for which the purchaser could not be determined and includes that product as a product for re-auction.

18. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
10 claim 11, wherein

said application for auction includes information designating an auction period of the product,

15           said re-auction means makes changes including changing the auction period for a product for which a purchaser could not be determined and includes that product as a product for re-auction,

said product disclosing means and said bid receiving means disclose the product and receive bids within said designated or changed period, and

20           said successful bid determining means determining the purchaser of the product from applications for purchase received during the designated or changed period.

19. An auction processing method for receiving a  
25 bid transmitted from any node via a network and hosting

an auction of a desired product in an apparatus connected to a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, comprising the steps of

receiving an application for auction for any  
5 product including information describing the product and information of sale conditions of the product and including the product as a product for auction,

disclosing any information including  
information describing the product by a format enabling  
10 viewing of the product for auction from any node,

receiving an application of purchase including  
information of the purchase conditions for said product  
for auction transmitted from any node,

determining a purchaser of the product from  
15 applications for purchase received within a predetermined period for said product for auction and having purchase conditions of the applications matching with said sale conditions of the product,

changing part or all of said sale conditions  
20 and said information describing the product to be disclosed according to a predetermined process for a product for which said purchaser could not be determined and including the product as a product for auction again.

20. An auction processing apparatus for submitting  
25 a product for auction to a system disclosing information

describing products and hosting auctions with respect to the products on a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, having

5 a re-auction instructing means for automatically changing part or all of information describing the product to be disclosed and sale conditions of the product and instructing whether or not the product is to be submitted for auction again when a transaction was not established in an auction and

10 an auction applying means for transmitting information describing a related product including information describing said product to be disclosed, said sale conditions of the product, and said instruction relating to re-auction for a product for submission to  
15 said node receiving auctions.

21. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein said re-auction instructing means issues instructions including at least one of a change of information describing the product to be disclosed again,  
20 changing the minimum reserve of the product, and changing the auction period of the product.

22. An auction processing method for submitting a product for auction to a system disclosing information describing products and hosting auctions for related  
25 products on a network to which a plurality of nodes are

connected, comprising the steps of

generating an application for auction for any product including information describing a product, sale conditions of the product, and an instruction for

5 automatically changing part or all of said information describing the product to be disclosed and said sale conditions and instructing whether or not the product is to be submitted for auction again when a transaction was not established in the auction and

10 transmitting said generated application for auction to said node receiving auctions on said network.

23. An auction processing method as set forth in claim 22, wherein information describing the product included in the application for auction is entered in a  
15 manner enabling the information describing the product disclosed on the network to be changed in accordance with a re-auction.

24. An auction system for hosting auctions in a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected,  
20 comprising

a submitting means able to transmit information relating to a product to an auction sponsoring means for any product and submit the product for auction,

an auction sponsoring means comprised on any  
25 node of said network, disclosing the submitted product by

a format enabling viewing from any node on said network,  
receiving a bid from a bidding means on any node,  
determining the successful bidder for selling the product  
to from the bidding means placing bids, and transmitting  
5 information relating to shipping of said product to said  
submitting means and said successful bidder, and

a bidding means capable of viewing said product  
for auction disclosed by said auction sponsoring means  
via said network and capable of placing a bid for a  
10 product desired to be purchased.

25. An auction system as set forth in claim 24,  
further having a shipping arranging means for  
responding to a request for information relating to  
shipping of an article,  
15 said auction sponsoring means requesting  
information relating to shipping of the product from the  
shipping arranging means and transmitting information  
relating to the shipping of the product to said  
submitting means and said successful bidder based on the  
20 response from the shipping arranging means.

26. An auction system as set forth in claim 25,  
wherein  
said shipping arranging means sends its  
response to a request for information to at least said  
25 submitting means and said successful bidder when

requesting a request for information including  
information on said product, said submitting means, and  
said successful bidder and

5                   said auction hosting means requests said  
information including information on said product, said  
submitting means, and said successful bidder so as to  
indirectly send the information relating to shipping of  
said product to said submitting means and said successful  
bidder.

10           27. An auction system as set forth in claim 25,  
wherein

                  said auction sponsoring means sends to said  
shipping arranging means information including at least  
one of a size, shape, weight, material, structure,  
15   precautions in handling, photo, and successful bid of  
said product and information relating to said submitting  
means and said successful bidder including information on  
the locations of the origin and destination of shipment  
of the product and

20                   said shipping arranging means sends back  
information including at least one of a shipping fee of  
the product, scheduled pickup date and time, pickup  
method, pickup conditions, scheduled delivery date and  
time, shipping method, shipping conditions, insurance fee  
25   relating to the shipping, and insurance conditions.

28. An auction system as set forth in claim 25,  
wherein

said system has a plurality of shipping  
arranging means and

5           said auction sponsoring means requests  
information relating to the shipping of said product from  
said plurality of shipping arranging means and sends  
information relating to the shipping of the product based  
on the responses obtained from said plurality of shipping  
10           arranging means to said submitting means and said  
successful bidder.

29. An auction system as set forth in claim 25,  
wherein

            said system has a plurality of said shipping  
15           arranging means and

            said auction sponsoring means requests  
information relating to the shipping of said product from  
said plurality of shipping arranging means, determines  
the shipping arranging means to entrust the shipping of  
20           said product to based on the responses obtained from said  
plurality of shipping arranging means, and sends  
information relating to the shipping of the product based  
on that decision to said submitting means and said  
successful bidder.

25           30. An auction system as set forth in claim 29,

wherein the shipping arranging means to entrust the shipping of the product to is decided from the plurality of shipping arranging means by auction.

31. An auction system as set forth in claim 27,  
5 wherein the insurance fee relating to the shipping of the product is determined based on the successful bid of the product.

32. An auction system as set forth in claim 24,  
wherein said auction sponsoring means sends packing  
10 material for use when shipping the product and information relating to the packing method to said submitting means and said successful bidder.

33. An auction system as set forth in claim 24,  
wherein said shipping arranging means arranges to deliver  
15 packing material for use when shipping the product to said submitting means.

34. An auction system as set forth in claim 25,  
wherein said shipping arranging means arranges to  
retrieve said packing material used for shipping of said  
20 product from said successful bidder.

35. An auction processing method for hosting an auction in a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, comprising the steps of

disclosing a submitted product by a format  
25 enabling viewing from any node on the network,



receiving a bid for a product from any node,  
determining a successful bidder for selling the  
product to from received bids, and

transmitting information relating to said  
5 successful bid and information relating to shipping of  
the product to a submitter of the product and successful  
bidder.

36. An auction processing method as set forth in  
claim 35, further comprising

10 generating information relating to shipping of  
said product based on information on the successfully bid  
product, the submitter of the product, and the successful  
bidder of the product in a shipping arranging means of  
any node on the network and

15 sending said generated information to the  
submitter of the product and the successful bidder  
directly or indirectly.

37. An auction processing method as set forth in  
claim 36, wherein

20 said information relating to shipping of the  
product includes at least one of a shipping fee of the  
product, scheduled pickup date and time, pickup method,  
pickup conditions, scheduled delivery date and time,  
shipping method, shipping conditions, insurance fee  
25 relating to the shipping, and insurance conditions and

is generated based on information including at least one of a size, shape, weight, material, structure, precautions in handling, photo, and successful bid of said product and information relating to said submitting means and said successful bidder including information on the locations of the origin and destination of shipment of the product.

38. An auction processing method as set forth in claim 36, further comprising  
generating information relating to the shipping of the product in a plurality of shipping arranging means,  
selecting one shipping arranging means based on the plurality of generated information, and  
sending said information generated at said selected shipping arranging means to the submitter of said product and successful bidder directly or indirectly.

39. An auction processing method as set forth in claim 38, further comprising selecting said one shipping arranging means by auction based on predetermined shipping conditions.

40. An auction processing method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising arranging for packing material for use when shipping the product to be

delivered to said submitter.

41. An auction processing method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising arranging for the packing material used for shipping the product to be retrieved  
5 from said successful bidder.

42. An auction processing apparatus having a shipping information requesting means connected to a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, transmitting information of the result of a successful  
10 bid of an auction to a shipping arranging means on any node on the network and requesting information relating to shipping of the successfully bid product from a submitter to a successful bidder.

43. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
15 claim 42, further comprising

a shipping information receiving means for receiving information relating to shipping of said successfully bid product from the submitter to the successful bidder sent in response to said request and  
20 a shipping information sending means for sending information relating to the shipping of the product based on the received information to said submitter and successful bidder.

44. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
25 claim 42, wherein said shipping information requesting

means instructs said shipping arranging means to send the requested information relating to the shipping of the product from the submitter to the successful bidder directly to the submitter and successful bidder.

5           45. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in claim 42, wherein said shipping information requesting means sends to said shipping arranging means information including at least one of a size, shape, weight, material, structure, precautions in handling, photo, and  
10   successful bid of said product and information relating to said submitting means and said successful bidder including information on the locations of the origin and destination of shipment of the product and requests information including at least one of a shipping fee of  
15   the product, scheduled pickup date and time, pickup method, pickup conditions, scheduled delivery date and time, shipping method, shipping conditions, insurance fee relating to the shipping, and insurance conditions.

          46. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
20   claim 43, wherein

          said shipping information requesting means makes said request to a plurality of shipping arranging means,

          said shipping information receiving means  
25   receives information relating to the shipping of the

successfully bid product from the submitter to the  
successful bidder from the plurality of shipping  
arranging means,

5       said apparatus further has a selecting means  
for selecting one shipping arranging means to entrust the  
shipping to based on the received plurality of  
information relating to the shipping, and

10       said shipping information sending means sends  
information relating to the shipping of the product based  
on the information received from said selected shipping  
arranging means to said submitter and said successful  
bidder.

47.   An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
claim 42, wherein said selecting means selects the  
15   shipping arranging means to entrust the shipping of the  
product to from the plurality of shipping arranging means  
by auction.

48.   An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
claim 42, further having a packing material information  
20   sending means for sending information relating to  
arrangement of packing material for use when shipping the  
product and information relating to the packing method to  
said submitter and said successful bidder.

49.   An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
25   claim 42, wherein said shipping information requesting

means requests said shipping arranging means to deliver packing material for use when shipping the product to said submitter.

50. An auction processing apparatus as set forth in  
5 claim 42, wherein said shipping information requesting means requests said shipping arranging means to retrieve the packing material used for shipping the product from said successful bidder.

51. An auction processing apparatus connected to a  
10 network to which a plurality of nodes are connected and hosting an auction of any product, having

a submission receiving means for receiving a submission of any product transmitted from a submitter,

a product disclosing means for disclosing said  
15 submitted product by a format enabling viewing from any node on said network,

a bid receiving means for receiving a bid from a bidding means on any node,

a successful bid processing means for  
20 determining a successful bidder for selling the product to from said received bids,

a shipping information acquiring means for acquiring information relating to the shipping of a successfully bid product from the submitter to the  
25 successful bidder based on the result of said successful

bid, and

a successful bid result transmitting means for transmitting information of the result of said successful bid and information relating to said shipping to said submitter and successful bidder.

52. An auction processing method for hosting an auction of any product in a system connected to a network to which a plurality of nodes are connected, comprising the steps of

10 receiving the submission of any product transmitted from a submitter,

disclosing said submitted product by a format enabling viewing from any node on said network,

15 receiving a bid from a bidding means on any node,

determining a successful bidder for selling the product to from said received bids,

20 acquiring information relating to the shipping of the successfully bid product from the submitter to the successful bidder based on the result of said successful bid, and

transmitting the information of the result of said successful bid and said information relating to shipping to said submitter and successful bidder.

25 53. An information processing system having

a storage means connected to the network and storing required information relating to a service provided on the network as evidence information,

5 a receiving means connected to said network and receiving petition information of a suit with respect to said service transmitted via said network, and

10 a judging means connected to said network and rendering a judgement with respect to said suit based on said petition information and said evidence information stored by said storage means.

54. An information processing system as set forth in claim 53, further having a judgement execution means connected to said network for executing said judgement on said network.

15 55. An information processing system as set forth in claim 53, wherein

said service is a sale service where a purchaser accesses a vendor through the network, views product information, and purchases a desired product and

20 said storage means accesses the address of the vendor notified from the purchaser to obtain said product information and stores the obtained product information as evidence information.

56. An information processing system as set forth  
25 in claim 53, wherein



5                   said judging means renders a judgement based on  
the result of judgement of the accusation based on the  
case information notified from the jurors.

58. An information processing method comprising  
a first step of storing required information  
relating to a service provided on the network as the  
evidence information in a storage means connected to the  
network.

20                    a third step of rendering a judgement with  
respect to said suit on said trial processing side based  
on said petition information and said evidence  
information stored by said storage means.

executing said judgement on the network.

60. An information processing method as set forth  
in claim 58, wherein

said service is a sale service where a  
5 purchaser accesses a vendor through the network, views  
product information, and purchases a desired product and  
in said first step,

said purchaser notifies said storage means of  
the address of the vendor enabling viewing of the  
10 information of the product to be purchased and

said storage means accesses the notified  
address to obtain said product information and stores the  
obtained product information as evidence information.

61. An information processing method as set forth  
15 in claim 58, further comprising,

in said second step, receiving said petition  
information at a receiving means connected to the network  
and

in said third step,  
20 having said receiving means notify the  
plurality of jurors through the network of the necessary  
case information obtained based on the received petition  
information,

having said jurors notify said receiving means  
25 through said network of the results of their own

judgements of the accusation based on said notified  
information, and

having said receiving means render a judgement  
based on the results of judgement notified from the  
5 jurors.

62. An information processing method as set forth in claim 58, wherein, in said second step, the accusation is received only when the sender of the petition information is a subscriber to a predetermined insurance.